

- * Backache; and
- * Anaemia

Disease prevalent around Talcher and IB Valley coal mines are:—

- * Respiratory;
- * Skin; and
- * Eye diseases

(d) Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiary companies provide medical care to its employees in the hospitals/dispensaries run by them. Hospitals managed by State/Central Govt. and industrial hospitals take care of health of the local population residing in and around coal mines. CIL has adequate budget to provide medical facilities to its employees. Besides, under Community Development Programme, free health camps are organized for the underprivileged section of the population residing in and around the coal mines. Revenue expenditure in CIL for the last six years is as under:—

Year	Revenue Expenditure (Rs. In Lakhs)
2000-01	6994.8
2001-02	8372.86
2002-03	9266.62
2003-04	10138.55
2004-05	14938.00
2005-06	14182.00

Clinical research hub

2640. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is rapidly growing into a clinical research hub in the world;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether exploitation of innocent poor for clinical trial is the major reason; and
- (d) the steps taken to check such exploitations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There has been remarkable growth in clinical research activities in India in the last two years;

In the report submitted in 2003 by Dr. Mashelkar's Committee on drug regulatory issues, it was emphasized that India has some inherent and natural advantages in Clinical Research. India's highly skilled medical fraternity, many world class medical institutions and large treatment naive population highlights India's potential for clinical research.

(c) and (d) Clinical Trials in India have to be conducted as per norms prescribed in Drugs and Cosmetics Rules & Good Clinical Practices (GCP) guidelines. Para 2.4.7. of GCP guidelines requires the sponsors to pay compensation for patients who may suffer any unforeseen harm. Each organization conducting clinical trials has to have an Ethics Committee that is responsible for the safeguard of the rights, safety and well being of the study subjects. India is the first country outside the ICH (International Conference of Harmonization) region to have systemic, elaborate and extensive clinical trial inspection programme.

These measures will significantly enhance standards of clinical trials and will address the perception about exploitation of Indian study subjects especially the poor and illiterate.

NSSO survey on PHCs and CHCs

2641. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the findings of NSSO survey on the crumbling infrastructure of primary health centres and community health centres in the country;
- (b) if so, what are the major findings of the survey;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government would monitor the conditions of PHCs and CHCs beyond the usual consultations with State Governments;
- (e) if so, what are the factors causing such a situation; and